

WELLESLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 2, 2020

Attendees: Bob Brown, Joan Gaughan, Denny Nackoney, Steve Park, Laura Robert (NRC Liaison), Jeff Zupan.
Absent: Diane Hall, Miguel Lessing, John Schuler, Ekaterina Zemlyakova.
Guest: None
Location: Outdoors in the backyard of Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

A hardy bunch of dedicated Trails Committee members braved persistent drizzle to conduct our second outdoor meeting that met Covid-19 guidelines. Unlike the guest appearance of a red-tailed hawk at our first outdoor meeting, we were serenaded by crickets.

A motion to approve the July 15, 2020, meeting minutes by Joan was followed by a second from Bob. The vote carried unanimously.

Considering the difficulties of running guided walks under Covid-19 guidelines, where we have had over 60 people attend, we decided to cancel all four planned walks for the fall. Instead, we will focus on providing self-guided walks. Joan and Diane will work on developing a concise walk description for the Morses Pond Trail to be posted on our website and Facebook, and on getting it up on Wellesley Media.

We reviewed a proposed budget request for FY22. The requested amount is \$3,500 for operating expenses with an additional \$5,200 for trail projects. It was approved unanimously and will be submitted to the NRC for final approval.

Steve attended a Town Department planning meeting and Jeff attended a Mobility Committee meeting where the Washington Street Parklet at Elm Park was discussed. Ideas for encouraging diners to use the existing Town trails network to walk or ride bikes to the Parklet were presented. At our meeting we discussed wayfinding and signage that would connect adjacent trails to the area and will work with the Town on some trial implementations.

Two trail projects were completed in July to enhance our trails network. A new 1.0 mile woodland trail was constructed and marked in the North 40. The Crosstown Trail now crosses Route 9 at Lexington St and connects to the aqueduct land north of Route 9 to Overbrook Dr.

A new interactive Wellesley Trails Viewer has been implemented by Mike Thompson who manages the Town's GIS mapping effort in IT. We are working with him on additional features for trail users.

We plan to complete two projects this fall that can be completed under current Covid-19 guideline by committee members. One is to improve footing on the steps at the Waban Arches, and the other is to improve and cleanup Town Forest trails off Barton Rd. Dates will be announced later.

Extending the sidewalk on Washington St to South Natick for a trail connection and access to Elm Bank was included in Complete Streets list of recommended projects, however it is #23 on the list. We will work with Town government on funding and implementation ideas to get this important safety upgrade completed sooner rather than later.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 7 at 7:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

Documents available by request: FY21 Project List (9/2/20), Current FY21 and Proposed FY22 Budget (8/26/20), Fall Walks, Events & Projects (9/2/20).

Denny Nackoney
Vice-Chair, Wellesley Trails Committee